AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4-8, 13 and 15; and amend Claim 1 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An air passage switching device for opening and closing at least one air passage, said air passage switching device comprising:

a sliding door that slides in a sliding direction along an edge of an opening of the air passage, the edge of the opening being parallel to the sliding direction of the sliding door, the sliding door further comprising a film member that presses against [[an]] the edge of the opening and a grill member, the grill member being parallel to the sliding direction at a center of the air passage, the sliding door including a door plate supporting the film member, the door plate having openings that allow a draft pressure to pass therethrough and act on the film member; and

elastic pressing means disposed between the film member and the door plate that elastically presses the film member against the edge of the opening and the grill ~~members~~ member;

wherein a first spacing between the door plate ~~in a center of the air passage~~ and the grill member is equal to or greater than a second spacing between the edge of the opening and the door plate ~~in an end portion of the air passage in a perpendicular direction~~.

2. (previously presented) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein a maximum value of the first spacing is set to a range such that an

amount of elastic compression of said elastic pressing means after assembly is at least 0.

3. (previously presented) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein the elastic pressing means comprises a plurality of slender elastic pressing means extending parallel with the sliding direction of the sliding door, said plurality of slender elastic pressing means disposed only in positions facing the edge of the air opening and the grill member.

4.-8. (cancelled)

9. (withdrawn) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein the film member comprises a film base layer and a low-friction material layer provided on a side of the film base layer to slide over the edge seal faces and the end faces of the grill members.

10. (previously presented) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, further comprising an air conditioner having air passages that open and close with the sliding door for supplying air to a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

11. (withdrawn) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein said opening is at least two grill members formed in said air passage, said grill members parallel with a sliding direction of the sliding door, said sliding door being a

plate shaped door that slides from each of said two grill members to the other to selectively open one of said grill members and close another of said grill members.

12. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein said door member supports said film member along a curved periphery, said opening having a curved periphery matching that of said film member.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein a case dividing plane is formed proximate to and along the grill member.

15. (cancelled)